

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice and add claims 28-53, such that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-27. (Canceled).

28. (New) A fire extinguishing apparatus comprising:

an engine adapted to generate exhaust;

a valve comprising:

an exhaust input leg in communication with and adapted to receive exhaust from the engine;

a first exhaust output leg;

a second exhaust output leg; and,

a valve member adapted to selectively control exhaust flow from the exhaust input leg to the first exhaust output leg and the second exhaust output leg; and,

an outlet hose in communication with and adapted to receive exhaust from the second exhaust output leg, the outlet hose being directionally controllable.

29. (New) The fire extinguishing apparatus of claim 28 further comprising:

a control element adapted to control the valve member.

30. (New) The fire extinguishing apparatus of claim 29 wherein the control element comprises:

a rod coupled to the valve member and adapted to facilitate movement of the valve member; and,

a cable coupled to the rod and adapted to facilitate movement of the rod.

31. (New) The fire extinguishing apparatus of claim 30 further comprising:

a bracket coupled to the fire extinguishing apparatus;
and,

a cable guide coupled to the bracket adapted to receive and support the cable.

32. (New) The fire extinguishing apparatus of claim 28 wherein the valve member is a flapper valve.

33. (New) The fire extinguishing apparatus of claim 28 wherein the valve is a ball valve.

34. (New) The fire extinguishing apparatus of claim 28 wherein the valve is a slider valve.

35. (New) The fire extinguishing apparatus of claim 28 wherein an output of the first exhaust output leg is directed substantially away from the fire extinguishing apparatus.

36. (New) A fire extinguishing system comprising:

a frame;

a blower adapted to generate an airstream coupled to the frame, the blower comprising:

an engine adapted to generate exhaust; and,

an outlet hose adapted to conduct the airstream,
the outlet hose being directionally controllable;

a valve comprising:

an exhaust input leg in communication with and adapted to receive exhaust from the engine;

a first exhaust output leg;

a second exhaust output leg; and,
a valve member adapted to selectively control exhaust flow from the exhaust input leg to the first exhaust output leg and the second exhaust output leg; and,
wherein the outlet hose is in communication with and adapted to receive exhaust from the second exhaust output leg and facilitates combination of the exhaust from the engine and the airstream from the blower.

37. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 36 further comprising:

one or more straps coupled to the frame and adapted to allow carriage of the fire extinguishing system.

38. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 36 further comprising:

a control element adapted to control the valve member.

39. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 38 wherein the control element comprises:

a rod coupled to the valve member and adapted to facilitate movement of the valve member; and,

a cable coupled to the rod and adapted to facilitate movement of the rod.

40. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 39 further comprising:

a bracket coupled to the fire extinguishing system; and,

a cable guide coupled to the bracket adapted to receive and support the cable.

41. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 36 wherein the valve member is a flapper valve.

42. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 36 wherein the valve is a ball valve.

43. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 36 wherein the valve is a slider valve.

44. (New) The fire extinguishing system of claim 36 wherein an output of the first exhaust output leg is directed substantially away from the fire extinguishing system.

45. (New) A method of extinguishing a fire comprising:
generating an airstream with a blower;
flowing the airstream through an outlet hose;
generating exhaust from an engine of the blower;
selectively directing at least a portion of the exhaust through an exhaust output leg of a valve having at least two exhaust output legs;
delivering the exhaust into the outlet hose;
combining the airstream and the exhaust in the outlet hose;
propelling the combined airstream and exhaust through the outlet hose.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:
reducing a temperature of one or more components of a fire extinguishing apparatus by flowing the combined airstream and exhaust through the apparatus.

47. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:
selectively directing at least a portion of the
exhaust through an output of another exhaust output leg to
atmosphere.
48. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:
starving a fire of oxygen by propelling at least
exhaust through the outlet hose at the fire.
49. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:
propelling the combined airstream and exhaust through
the outlet hose to divert a liquid.
50. (New) A method of extinguishing a fire comprising:
generating an airstream with a blower;
flowing the airstream through an outlet hose;
generating exhaust from an engine of the blower;
selectively directing at least a portion of the
exhaust through an exhaust output leg of a valve having at
least two exhaust output legs;
directing the exhaust to atmosphere; and,
propelling the airstream through the outlet hose.
51. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising:
encouraging propagation of a backfire by propelling
the airstream at the backfire.
52. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising:
directing a backfire toward a fire by propelling the
airstream at the backfire.

53. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising:
propelling the airstream through the outlet hose to
divert a liquid.